

UNCLASSIFIED 4/26/79 Department of State

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

PAGE 01 BUENOS 03313 01 OF 02 262138Z
ACTION ARA-15

6992

BUENOS 03313 01 OF 02 262138Z

AK 110

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 10-15 ADS-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-05
INR-10 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 LAEE-00 AID-05
DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 L-03 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15
NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAC-00 INRE-00 H4-05 AGRE-00
TRSE-00 OMB-01 /106 W

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O R 262058Z APR 79
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0398
INFO AMEMBASSY AGUNCION
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY MEXICO
AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 BUENOS AIRES 3313

DEPT FOR ARA LABOR ADVISOR; ALSO PASS AMBASSADOR CASTRO,
AIFLD AND AFL-CIO

E.O. 12065 N/A
TAGS ELAB, PINT, AR
SUBJECT STRIKE STATUS REPORT

REF: BUENOS AIRES 3214 AND 3269

1. SUMMARY. NINE LESSER UNION LEADERS HAVE BY NOW BEEN RELEASED, LEAVING 21 PRINCIPAL MEMBERS OF THE THE COMMITTEE OF 25 UNDER ARREST AT THE DISPOSITION OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH (PEN). NEW ARREST ORDERS HAVE BEEN ISSUED FOR FOUR MORE LEADERS, INCLUDING ONE CURRENTLY IN THE US AND ANOTHER IN GERMANY. THE GOA REPORTEDLY IS ALSO CONSIDERING OTHER ACTIONS, INCLUDING THE INTERVENTION OF UNIONS PARTICIPATING IN THE STRIKE CALL. MORE STATEMENTS OF SUPPORT FOR THE JAILED UNION LEADERS FROM ARGENTINE POLITICAL PARTY FIGURES HAVE BEEN GIVEN TO THE PRESS. IN ADDITION TO THE PRESS COMMUNIQUE OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFEDERATION OF FREE TRADE UNIONS (ICFTU) AND WORLD CONFEDERATION OF LABOR (WCL) EXPRESSING INTERNATIONAL WORKERS SOLIDARITY, THE PRESS REPORTED THAT THE PRESIDENT OF VENEZUELA HAD SENT A TELEGRAM TO ARGENTINE PRESIDENT VIDELA ON BEHALF OF THE JAILED UNION LEADERS. WCL-CLAT REPRESENTATIVES ARE NOW IN THE COUNTRY TO MAKE REPRESENTATIONS TO GOA AUTHORITIES. THE PRESS ALSO REPORTS THAT AFL-CIO VICE PRESIDENT CHAIKEN IS EXPECTED TO ARRIVE SHORTLY, ABOUT WHICH THE EMBASSY HAS NO INFORMATION. END SUMMARY.

2. A TOTAL OF NINE "COMMITTEE OF 25" ASSOCIATES WHO WERE ARRESTED ALONG WITH THE COMMITTEE'S TOP LEADERS HAVE NOW BEEN RELEASED, REPORTEDLY AFTER SECURITY FORCES DETERMINED THAT THEY HAD NOT BEEN DIRECTLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE GENERAL STRIKE CALL. THOSE FREED ON THURSDAY, ACCORDING TO TODAY'S PRESS, WERE HORACIO ALONSO (LAW COURT EMPLOYEES), HUGO BARRIONEUVO (PASTA WORKERS), ALFREDO MALDONADO (PASTRY WORKERS), NESTOR ABRAHAM DORRA (MILLERS), FRANCISCO RACICKY (TRUCK DRIVERS), JORGE BARILACHE (BREWERS), JUAN RACHINI (SODA WORKERS), AND FELIPE NASCALLE (VEGETABLE OIL WORKERS). ANOTHER LEADER, FRANCISCO LOIACONO (TOSACCO WORKERS), WAS RELEASED WEDNESDAY NIGHT.

3. TWENTY-ONE PRINCIPAL LEADERS OF THE COMMITTEE OF 25 REMAIN IMPRISONED, HAVING BEEN TRANSFERRED FROM THEIR ORIGINAL PLACE OF DETENTION TO THE CASEROS JA IN BUENOS AIRES AFTER AFFIRMING IN A FORMAL POLICE INTERROGATORY PROCEDURE THAT THEY HAD CONVOKED A WORK STOPPAGE FOR APRIL 27. THE LEADERS REPORTEDLY ARE BEING HELD UNDER THE PEN, ALTHOUGH THE TERMS OF THE PEN DECREE HAVE NOT YET BEEN MADE PUBLIC. LABOR SOURCES SPECULATE THAT AFTER THE STRIKE DATE (POSSIBLE NEXT WEEK) THE JAILED LEADERS WILL BE TURNED OVER TO THE NORMAL JUDICIAL PROCESS, WHICH WOULD OPEN THE POSSIBILITY OF THEIR BEING LET OUT ON BAIL WHILE AWAITING ADJUDICATION OF THE CASE. ACCORDING TO THE PRESS, THE GOVERNMENT HAS ISSUED ARREST ORDERS FOR THE HEAD OF THE TRUCKER UNION, RICARDO PEREZ, WHO IS ATTENDING A UNION SEMINAR IN EUROPE, "OSCAR" OTERO OF THE RACE TRACK EMPLOYEES (PRESUMABLY JESUS MARIA OTERO WHO IS ATTENDING AN AIFLD COURSE IN THE US), TRAVLING SALEMAN LEADER ANGEL ESTEVEZ AND NAVAL SHIPYARD WORKER LEADER JOSE CASTILLO, WHO ARE SOMEWHERE IN ARGENTINA.

4. THE PRESS REPORTS THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS CONSIDERING FURTHER MEASURE IN RESPONSE TO THE STRIKE THREAT, SUCH AS INTERVENING SOME OR ALL OF THE UNIONS WHOSE LEADERS HAVE BEEN JAILED AND/OR TERMINATING THE UNION MANDATES OF ALL LEADERS INVOLVED IN THE STRIKE CALL (INCLUDING THOSE WHO ARE SUBSTITUTING FOR THE TOP LEADERS IN THE ALTERNATE OR "EMERGENCY" COMMITTEE OF 25).

5. THE PRESS REPORTED THAT TRADE UNION LEADERS IN CORDOBA HAVE COME OUT IN SUPPORT OF THE WORK STOPPAGE, ALTHOUGH THE CORDOBA PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT HAS ISSUED A STRONG STATEMENT WARNING WORKERS NOT TO STRIKE. POLITICAL PARTY SOURCES IN CORDOBA APRIL 25 TOLD LABATT, HOWEVER, THERE WOULD NOT BE WIDESPREAD ADHERENCE TO THE STRIKE CALL IN THAT PROVINCE. ACCORDING TO THE PRESS, THE MENDOZA UNIONS ARE UNDECIDED, BUT LOCAL OBSERVERS DOUBT THERE WILL BE A STRIKE THERE. PRESS REPORTS FROM ROSARIO AND TUCUMAN ALSO REFLECT SKEPTICISM CONCERNING ADHERENCE TO THE STRIKE IN THOSE CITIES.

6. THE RIVAL CNT IS SCHEDULED TO MEET TODAY TO ASSESS THE CURRENT LABOR SITUATION, INCLUDING THE RECENT WAGE INCREASES DECLARED BY THE GOVERNMENT. ACCORDING TO THE PRESS, TEXTILE AND METAL UNION "SECCION" (IE LOCAL) LEADERS MET YESTERDAY AND DECIDED, DESPITE THE

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

(X) Release () Excise () Deny

Exemption(s):

Declassify: () In Part () In Full

() Classify as () Extend as () Downgrade to

Date Declassify on Reason

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Department of State

INCOMING
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PAGE 01 BUENOS 03313 02 OF 02 270311Z
ACTION ARA-15

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INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-15 ADS-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08
INR-10 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 LABE-00 AID-05
DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 L-03 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15
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UNCLAS SECTION 2 OF 2 BUENOS AIRES 3313

FACT THAT THEIR TOP LEADERS OPERATE PRINCIPALLY IN
THE CNT RATHER THAN THE 25-COMMITTEE, TO ADHERE TO
THE STRIKE CALL.

7. FURTHER STATEMENTS APPEARED IN THE PRESS FROM
NATIONAL POLITICAL FIGURES COMMENTING ON THE STRIKE
CALL AND ARRESTS, INCLUDING EX-PRESIDENT FRONDISI,
VARIOUS PERONIST FACTIONS AND THE UNIFIED SOCIALIST
PARTY -- ALL ASKING FOR THE RELEASE OF THE JAILED
UNION LEADERS. ON THE OTHER SIDE A RIGHT-WING GROUP
CALLED THE "FALANGE DE FE" ISSUED A STATEMENT EQUATING
THE STRIKE CALL WITH SUBVERSION.

8. WORLD CONFEDERATION OF LABOR (WCL) AND CLAT REPRESENTATIVES ERNESTO MOLANO AND RAMON DARIO GODOY ARRIVED IN ARGENTINA APRIL 25 TO SEEK APPOINTMENTS WITH GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES IN ORDER TO REQUEST THE RELEASE OF THE JAILED UNION LEADERS. BOTH EXPRESSED THEIR SOLIDARITY WITH THE ARGENTINE LABOR MOVEMENT UPON ARRIVAL IN THE COUNTRY. THE TWO CHRISTIAN LABOR ORGANIZATION REPRESENTATIVES INFORMED THE PRESS THAT, AT THE REQUEST OF THE VENEZUELAN TRADE UNION CENTRAL (CTV), LUIS HERRERA CAMPINS OF VENEZUELA HAD SENT A TELEGRAM TO PRESIDENT VIDELA ON BEHALF OF THE JAILED ARGENTINE UNION LEADERS. THE THREE TRADE UNION CENTRALS OF ITALY ALSO INFORMED THE PRESS THAT THEY HAD ASKED THEIR FOREIGN MINISTRY TO MAKE A REPRESENTATION TO THE GOA AND TO "THE MOST OPPORTUNE INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS" IN ORDER TO OBTAIN THE RELEASE OF THE ARGENTINE LEADERS, ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS. ARGENTINE UNION SOURCES ALSO TOLD THE PRESS THAT AFL-CIO VICE PRESIDENT SOL CHAIKIN AND INTERNATIONAL METAL WORKERS FEDERATION (IMF) REPRESENTATIVE FERNANDO MELGOSA WERE EXPECTED TO ARRIVE IN ARGENTINA APRIL 26 OR 27 ON SIMILAR MISSIONS.
CHAPLIN

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